

NNNNKAGZVV ZSA5756RA122

PP RUCAR

DE RUEHC 2164/21 1322034

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

P R 112013Z MAY 79

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUOHNR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY 2319

INFO RUEHLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 8479

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8827

RUCMNS/AMEMBASSY SANA 3719

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 120164/01

Z.O. 12065 GDS 05/11/85 (NIKLOS, J.) NEA

TAGS: PEPR, AF, UR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AFGHANISTAN AND PDRY

REF: TEHRAN 4716

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. EMBASSY SHOULD ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS WHICH BEAR ON SUBJECT (STATE 83746, STATE 93724, KABUL 1626) OF SOVIET ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN AND HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SHARE MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION WITH PGOL. IN ADDITION YOU MAY USE FOLLOWING INR UPDATE OF STATE 94905 (PREPARED FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN IN LATE MARCH), WHICH CONTAINS INFORMATION LARGELY DRAWN FROM OPEN SOURCES.

3. AFGHANISTAN: SOVIET COMMENTARY ON AFGHANISTAN HAS DECLINED OVER THE LAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS. WHILE THE SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO IMPLY THAT THE US AND PAKISTAN ARE BEHIND DISTURBANCES IN AFGHANISTAN, THE FREQUENCY, TONE AND AUTHORITY LEVEL OF THESE INSINUATIONS HAVE DECREASED. MOSCOW STILL ATTACKS THE CHINESE VENEMINENTLY, HOWEVER, TO COUNTER SOME OF THE ANTI-SOVIET SENTIMENT IN THE MUSLIM WORLD ENGENDERED BY MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR KABUL,

ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE MUSLIM MINORITIES IN THE USSR. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN THE LAST MONTH, SOVIET RADIO HAS CARRIED MESSAGES BY THE MUFTI OF TASHKENT EXTOLLING THE SOVIET POLICY OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE STATE OF ISLAM IN THE USSR. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS AND DOWNPLAY THE MARXIST ORIENTATION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA).

*Stinson*

12 MAY 75 66 56z

*Pol*

*CHG*

*RF*

*Chon*

4. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFGHAN REVOLUTION ON APRIL 27 WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL. BOTH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN SENT THEIR CONGRATULATIONS WHILE COMMENTARY STRESSED THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, BUT ADDED THAT THERE WAS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO. DESPITE REPEATED PLEDGES OF SUPPORT, THE SOVIETS WERE CAREFUL TO STRESS THE DRA'S NON-ALIGNED STATUS. MOSCOW HAS STILL NOT RECOGNIZED THE PDPA AS A COMMUNIST PARTY, AND IS UNLIKELY TO DO SO UNTIL THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE DRA'S HOLD OF THE COUNTRY STABILIZES. INDEED, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS FAVOR THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE TARIKAT POLICE, BUT THEIR COMMITMENT TO ITS SURVIVAL REMAINS FIRM. THE SOVIETS HAVE REFERRED TO THE PDPA AS A "VARIOUS PART" AND THE REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN AS IN THE SPIRIT OF "MULTI-CLASS INTERNATIONALISM," HOWEVER. MILITARY MEMBER BUDLOV RECENTLY CLAIMED AFGHANISTAN WAS IN THE ZONE OF "SOCIALIST ORIENTATION" MUCH LIKE ETHIOPIA AND ROUMANIA. THAT IS, IT IS PROGRESSIVE BUT HAS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT CAN START TO BUILD "GENUINE SOCIALISM."

5. THE FIGHTING IN AFGHANISTAN SEEMS TO HAVE INTENSIFIED AND SPREAD DESPITE KABUL'S EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS REBEL ACTIVITY. GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER RURAL AREAS OF KONARHA, PAKISTHAN AND PAKTIA PROVINCES SEEMS TENUOUS AND FIGHTING THERE HAS BEEN HEAVY. DISTURBANCES HAVE OCCURRED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL. THERE WERE NO SERIOUS DISTURBANCES DURING THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS--LARGELY DUE TO SOVIET COORDINATION OF THE SECURITY PREPARATIONS--BUT REPORTS OF ASSASSINATIONS OF HIGH AFGHAN OFFICIALS AND SOVIET ADVISORS PERSIST. REPORTEDLY, A NUMBER OF SOVIETS HAVE BEEN KILLED THUS FAR, MOST RECENTLY IN AN APPARENT ARMY MUTINY IN JALALABAD.

6. IN RESPONSE TO KABUL'S NEEDS, MOSCOW HAS APPARENTLY STEPPED UP ITS MILITARY AID. MUCH OF THIS WAS ALREADY ON THE BOOKS, BUT DELIVERY DATES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PRESS ACCOUNTS, THERE ARE NOW OVER 3,888 SOVIET ADVISORS IN AFGHANISTAN; ABOUT 1888 OF THEM

ARE MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE USSR HAS RECENTLY DELIVERED ABOUT A DOZEN MI-24 COMBAT HELICOPTERS; SINCE THERE ARE NO AFGHAN PILOTS CHECKED OUT ON THESE AIRCRAFT, SOVIET PILOTS MAY BE OPERATING THEM UNTIL AFGHAN PILOTS ARE TRAINED. IN EARLY APRIL, GENERAL YEPISHEV, CHIEF OF THE MAIN POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, HEADED A DELEGATION TO KABUL, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS ARMY LOYALTY AND INDOCTRINATION BUT ALSO PROBABLY TO SURVEY THE SITUATION FOR MOSCOW AND JUDGE THE TARAKI REGIME'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.

7. PORY: WHILE VISITING ETHIOPIA IN EARLY MAY, PORY STROMSHAN ISMAIL PUBLICLY THANKED THE USSR AND CUBA FOR THEIR AID IN THE RECENT FIGHTING WITH THE YAR AND PLACED THE PORY IN THE VAN OF THE "GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION" AND WORLD REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE. MOSCOW STOOD BY ADEN THROUGHOUT THE CONFLICT. WHILE THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ARMS DELIVERIES DURING THE FIGHTING, SOVIET SHIPMENTS TO THE PORY HAD BEEN HIGH SINCE LAST SUMMER, AND THE PORY PROBABLY HAD WHAT IT NEEDED.

BT

8164

NRHMVV ESA577BRA121

PP RUEHNR

DE RUEHC 0164/02 1320035

ZNY CCCCC ZZK

P R 112013Z MAY 79

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY 2320

INFO RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY KABL 0400

RUEHNO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0020

RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY SANA 3720

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 02 STATE 120164/02

5. MOSCOW ALSO APPEARED TO FAVOR A MEDIATED SETTLEMENT AND PUBLICLY PRAISED ARAB EFFORTS TO BRING AN END TO THE CONFLICT. BEFORE THE FIGHTING BROKE-OUT, THE USSR HAD BEEN TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE YAR AND THE SAUDIS. FOR ITS PART, IRAQ MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE MEDIATION EFFORT IN ORDER TO COUNTER A GROWTH IN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

9. DURING THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL, THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE HOSTED A DELEGATION FROM THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN. SINCE JANUARY, THE SOVIET PRESS HAS CARRIED SEVERAL CRITICAL COMMENTARIES ON OMAN AND THE SULTAN'S GOVERNMENT, HINTING THAT THE IRAN TROOPS TO UPHOLD THE GOVERNMENT--MAY REVIVE. MOSCOW IS PARTICULARLY DISPLEASED WITH OMAN'S REFUSAL TO SUPPORT THE BAGHDAD SANCTIONS AND BREAK TIES WITH EGYPT OVER THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS.

10. WE WILL BE RESPONDING TO PARA 5 REPTL SEPARATELY.

VANCE

BT

0164